2/21/72

Mr. Steven Duke
Yale University Law School
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Mr. Duke,

I would have written you again before this were it not for the fact that shortly after our correspondence I left on a trip and suffered an inhibiting accident on my return. The subject of our correspondence is of more, not less interest, for I have since found other cases where Foreman managed to get his client, a hood, jailed when there seemed to be no need, and one in which he was imported into a major city to "defend" a man who could not afford him, where he couldn't begin to be as effective as the locally-available criminal lawyers, and the man got convicted.

If there is any more of your files that you can provide, they may well be of help in this case and they may provide leads that fit with what I have learned that may, in turn, permit me to help the police. One area in particular has to do with the French Canadian and others involved, the old car, etc., especially if you have pictures of these people and the car. The parallels are truly remarkable.

Since writing you, I have made contact with the proper authorities in New Orleans. You may remember there was a New Orleans aspect to the heroin smuggling in the case in which I am interested, and that smuggling was from Canada, something nobody in New Orleans would then have considered likely with the various kinds of traffic into that port. There has been a change in recent months, and they now believe there is a Canadian source. When I was there in November they were working on it.

Another possibility is that the New Orleans end was contrived to finger someone there should there have been a misadventure. This would seem to be not unlike what happened to Miller. The most likely candidate there has never dealtin hard stuff and engaged in a major internal fight early in his career to keep his organization in his territory out of it. Also not without interest to me, in their effort to build statistics, those in the Department of Justice you found unresponsive pressed charges against this man in an old case having nothing to do with criminal activity and got him convicted by what amounts to perjury. But they did nothing about his criminal activity, past or current.

A week ago today Ray made a stupid and unsuccessful effort to break jail, something he had convincingly promised me he would not try at least as long as legal remedy remained. Had he gotten one step further in this effort he had virtually no chance of living. The effort required help inside and outside the jail. And it followed immediately upon publication of a number of utter falsehoods about him in Esquire for March, the worst and most dangerous being that he was going to sing, if not to the highest bidder, then in court. The truth is that he consistently rejects offers to talk to anyone, and I have copies of written offers of up to $5,000 an hour with promises to make no reference to the crime. So, if there is any further information you can provide, I sure would welcome it.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg